

Senate Bill No. 2217

CHAPTER 633

An act to amend Sections 7028.6, 7030, and 7048 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to contractors.

[Approved by Governor September 19, 1998. Filed
with Secretary of State September 21, 1998.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 2217, O'Connell. Contractors: small operations.

Existing provisions of the Contractors' State License Law regulate the licensure and discipline of contractors, but exempt from those provisions work for which the aggregate contract price is less than \$300. Existing law authorizes the Registrar of Contractors to issue citations containing orders of abatement and civil penalties against persons acting as contractors without a license.

This bill would increase the maximum contract price applicable to this exemption to less than \$500. It would require unlicensed persons performing work with a maximum contract price costing less than \$500 to disclose to the purchaser, pursuant to a written notification, as specified, that he or she is not licensed by the Contractors' State License Board. It would also make certain conforming changes, including authorizing the Registrar of Contractors to issue citations against persons failing to maintain this written notification.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 7028.6 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

7028.6. The Registrar of Contractors is hereby empowered to issue citations containing orders of abatement and civil penalties against persons acting in the capacity of or engaging in the business of a contractor within this state without having a license in good standing to so act or engage or a failure to maintain the notice required in Section 7048.

SEC. 2. Section 7030 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

7030. (a) Every person licensed pursuant to this chapter shall include the following statement in at least 10-point type on all written contracts with respect to which the person is a prime contractor:

"Contractors are required by law to be licensed and regulated by the Contractors' State License Board which has jurisdiction to investigate complaints against contractors if a complaint regarding a patent act or omission is filed within four years of the date of the

alleged violation. A complaint regarding a latent act or omission pertaining to structural defects must be filed within 10 years of the date of the alleged violation. Any questions concerning a contractor may be referred to the Registrar, Contractors' State License Board, P.O. Box 26000, Sacramento, California 95826."

(b) At the time of making a bid or prior to entering into a contract to perform work on residential property with four or fewer units, whichever occurs first, a contractor shall provide the following notice in capital letters in at least 10-point roman boldface type or in contrasting red print in at least 8-point roman boldface type:

"STATE LAW REQUIRES ANYONE WHO CONTRACTS TO DO CONSTRUCTION WORK TO BE LICENSED BY THE CONTRACTORS' STATE LICENSE BOARD IN THE LICENSE CATEGORY IN WHICH THE CONTRACTOR IS GOING TO BE WORKING—IF THE TOTAL PRICE OF THE JOB IS \$500 OR MORE (INCLUDING LABOR AND MATERIALS).

LICENSED CONTRACTORS ARE REGULATED BY LAWS DESIGNED TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC. IF YOU CONTRACT WITH SOMEONE WHO DOES NOT HAVE A LICENSE, THE CONTRACTORS' STATE LICENSE BOARD MAY BE UNABLE TO ASSIST YOU WITH A COMPLAINT. YOUR ONLY REMEDY AGAINST AN UNLICENSED CONTRACTOR MAY BE IN CIVIL COURT, AND YOU MAY BE LIABLE FOR DAMAGES ARISING OUT OF ANY INJURIES TO THE CONTRACTOR OR HIS OR HER EMPLOYEES.

YOU MAY CONTACT THE CONTRACTORS' STATE LICENSE BOARD TO FIND OUT IF THIS CONTRACTOR HAS A VALID LICENSE. THE BOARD HAS COMPLETE INFORMATION ON THE HISTORY OF LICENSED CONTRACTORS, INCLUDING ANY POSSIBLE SUSPENSIONS, REVOCATIONS, JUDGMENTS, AND CITATIONS. THE BOARD HAS OFFICES THROUGHOUT CALIFORNIA. PLEASE CHECK THE GOVERNMENT PAGES OF THE WHITE PAGES FOR THE OFFICE NEAREST YOU OR CALL 1-800-321-CSLB FOR MORE INFORMATION."

(c) Failure to comply with the notice requirements set forth in subdivision (a) or (b) of this section is cause for disciplinary action.

SEC. 3. Section 7048 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

7048. (a) This chapter does not apply to any work or operation on one undertaking or project by one or more contracts, the aggregate contract price which for labor, materials, and all other items, is less than five hundred dollars (\$500), that work or operations being considered of casual, minor, or inconsequential nature.



This exemption does not apply in any case wherein the work of construction is only a part of a larger or major operation, whether undertaken by the same or a different contractor, or in which a division of the operation is made in contracts of amounts less than five hundred dollars (\$500) for the purpose of evasion of this chapter or otherwise.

This exemption does not apply to a person who advertises or puts out any sign or card or other device which might indicate to the public that he or she is a contractor or that he or she is qualified to engage in the business of a contractor.

(b) Any person performing work costing less than five hundred dollars (\$500) who is not licensed under this chapter shall disclose to the purchaser of the work the fact that he or she is not licensed by the Contractors' State License Board.

At the time of making a bid or prior to entering into a contract to perform work for less than five hundred dollars (\$500), whichever occurs first, the person performing the work shall provide the following notice in capital letters in at least 10-point roman boldface type or in contrasting red print in at least 8-point roman boldface type:

"I, (individual's name), AM NOT LICENSED BY THE CONTRACTORS' STATE LICENSE BOARD.

STATE LAW REQUIRES ANYONE WHO CONTRACTS TO DO CONSTRUCTION WORK TO BE LICENSED BY THE CONTRACTORS' STATE LICENSE BOARD IN THE LICENSE CATEGORY IN WHICH THE CONTRACTOR IS GOING TO BE WORKING—IF THE TOTAL PRICE OF THE JOB IS \$500 OR MORE (INCLUDING LABOR AND MATERIALS).

LICENSED CONTRACTORS ARE REGULATED BY LAWS DESIGNED TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC. IF YOU CONTRACT WITH SOMEONE WHO DOES NOT HAVE A LICENSE, THE CONTRACTORS' STATE LICENSE BOARD MAY BE UNABLE TO ASSIST YOU WITH A COMPLAINT. YOUR ONLY REMEDY AGAINST AN UNLICENSED CONTRACTOR MAY BE IN CIVIL COURT, AND YOU MAY BE LIABLE FOR DAMAGES ARISING OUT OF ANY INJURIES TO THE CONTRACTOR OR HIS OR HER EMPLOYEES."

The person performing the work shall maintain for four years a copy of the above notice signed by the purchaser of the work acknowledging receipt of this notice.

The exemption provided by this section does not apply to any person failing to provide the required notice to the purchaser of the work.



This notice need only be provided once to the same purchaser of subsequent work.

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